

Earl Woods Remembered *Father-son duo had strong bond*

(AP) — Earl Woods, who was more determined to raise a good son than a great golfer and became the architect and driving force behind Tiger Woods' phenomenal career, is being remembered after his death May 3 of cancer. He was 74.

"My dad was my best friend and greatest role model, and I will miss him deeply," Tiger Woods said on his Web site. "I'm overwhelmed when I think of all of the great things he accomplished in his life. He was an amazing dad, coach, mentor, soldier, husband and friend. I wouldn't be where I am today without him, and I'm honored to continue his legacy of sharing and caring."

A habitual smoker who had heart bypass surgery in 1986, Woods was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1998 and was treated with radiation. But the cancer returned in 2004 and spread throughout his body.

Last month, he was too frail to travel to the Masters for the first time.

The last tournament Woods attended was the Target World Challenge in December 2004, when his son rallied to win and then donated \$1.25 million to the Tiger Woods Foundation that his father helped him establish. The Tiger Woods Learning Center, another vision inspired by his father, opened in February.

Woods decided not to play in the Wachovia Championship this week in Charlotte, N.C. Two of his best friends on tour, Mark O'Meara and John Cook, withdrew from the tournament and flew to California to be with him.

Jack Nicklaus, who also was 30 when his father died, said he had

long "admired and related to the close bond" shared by Tiger and Earl.

"My father was my best friend, my mentor and perhaps my greatest support system. Earl was all of that to Tiger," he said.

Earl Woods was more than a golf dad, more than a zealous father who lived vicariously through his son's achievements.

He had played catcher for Kan-

sas State, the first black to play baseball in the Big Eight Conference, and he had been a Green Beret for two tours in Vietnam. But he felt his true purpose was to train Tiger, and he watched his son evolve into the dominant player of his time — the youngest player to win the career Grand Slam — and one of the most celebrated athletes in the world.

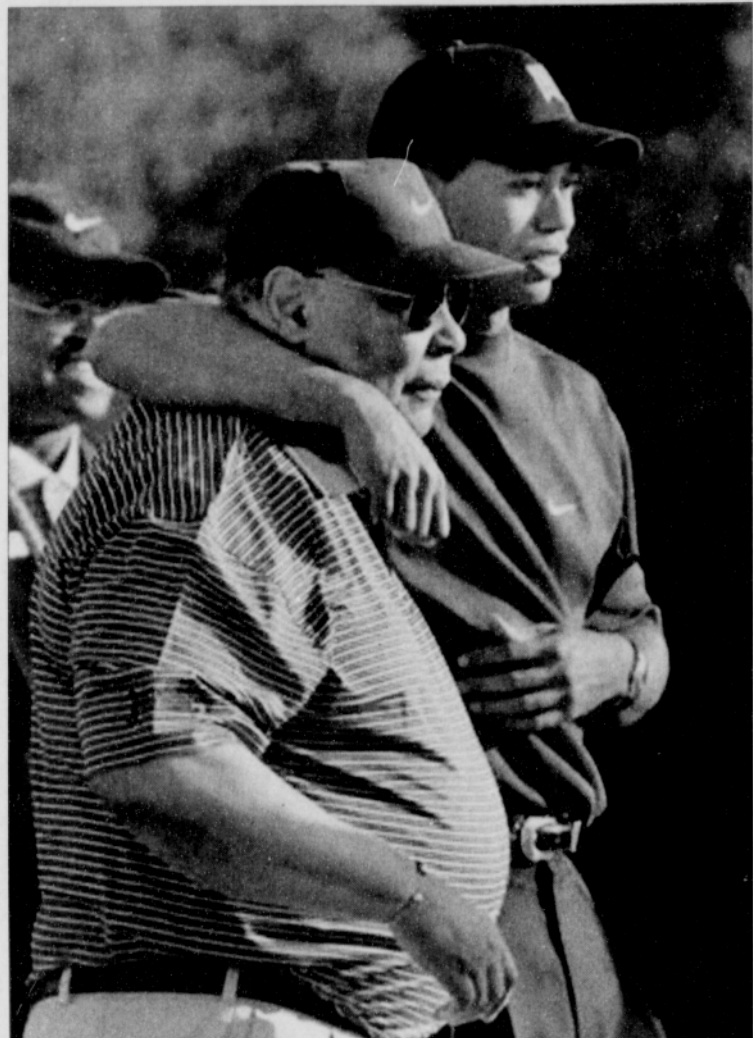
"I knew Tiger was special the

day he was born," Woods said in a May 2000 interview with The Associated Press.

Woods introduced Tiger to golf

by swinging a club as his son watched in a high chair. Tiger appeared on the "Mike Douglas Show" at age 2, played exhibitions

with Sam Snead and Nicklaus, and his television appeal was solely responsible for quantum gains in PGA Tour prize money.



Tiger Woods says of his father, who died May 3: "My dad was my best friend and greatest role model, and I will miss him deeply." (AP photo)

Transgender Library Breaks Isolation

continued from Metro
tuality, youth, medical issues, legal issues and psychology. Online resources are also available. The collection ranges from erotic to esoteric, and even McCobb felt overwhelmed with the wealth of information.

"In my own transgender journey there were about 15 books out there, and eight of them were pretty offensive," McCobb said. "It's been very powerful to watch this library grow."

You won't find a more exhaustive collection outside of Portland, with San Francisco housing the

nearest similar resource. The collection has already proved to be worth the cost — its official opening was last month, but employees have benefited during its development. "It's raised the bar of gender sensitivity in the entire agency," McCobb said.

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